THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) In accordance with the provisions of the statutes governing the nationalised banks and in accordance with the practices and usages customary among bankers, the information relating to the affairs of individual constituents cannot be divulged. The Bank has, however, reported that the allegation relating to connivance has not been substantiated.

**Expenditure on Telecommunication**

2689. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total Government expenditure in the field of tele-communications in each of the three years since 1982-83;

(b) the expenditure related to telecommunication separately by departments of telecommunications, electronics, railways, defence, space and information and broadcasting and other concerned Government agencies in each of the above three years and that planned for each year of the seventh five year plan;

(c) whether there is any agency in India to coordinate the activities of these departments and ministries in the matter of telecommunications, to put the expenditure to best use;

(d) whether imports of telecom equipment are carried out by Department of Telecommunications only for the entire Government sector; and

(e) if not, what has been the value of imports by each of the above departments and ministries in each of the three years since 1982-83?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) to (e) The above information is being collected from the related Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

**Moratorium on Bank of Cochin**

2690. SHRI K. GOPALAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when did Government declare moratorium on Bank of Cochin and what was its liability and assets at that time;

(b) the number of employees and officers were there on its roll and among them how many were absorbed by the State Bank of India;

(c) against how many employees disciplinary proceedings were initiated and whether the amalgamation with State Bank of India has been completed and if not, by when it is likely to be completed; and

(d) whether staff fixation of the absorbed staff of Bank of Cochin in State Bank of India has been completed and if not, by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) An order of moratorium on the Bank of Cochin Ltd., Cochin was issued by the Government with effect from the close of business on 27-4-1985. As on the date of moratorium, the assets and liabilities of the Bank of Cochin Ltd. aggregated to Rs. 118.46 crores.

(b) The total number of employees and officers on the roll of the Bank of Cochin Ltd. as on 27-4-1985 were as under:

| | |
|---|---|
| Workmen staff (including part-time sweepers) | —1217 |
| Officers | —326 |

All workmen staff and officers of the Bank of Cochin Ltd., other than 21 officers specified in the "Schedule" annexed to the scheme of amalgamation of Bank of Cochin Ltd. with State Bank of India, were absorbed in the service of the State Bank of India.

(c) and (d) According to State Bank of India, the Bank of Cochin Ltd. had initiated disciplinary proceedings against 3 officers and 18 workmen staff prior to

the declaration of moratorium on the bank. In terms of the scheme of amalgamation of the Bank of Cochin Ltd., Cochin with State Bank of India, which came into effect w.e.f. 26-8-1985, the salary fixation etc. of the employees of the erstwhile Bank of Cochin Ltd., absorbed in the State Bank of India, is required to be completed within a period of 3 years from the date of amalgamation.

**Pay scales for scientists**

2691. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that different Central associations and organisations of scientists belonging to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Medical Research Council etc. have sought the intervention of the Prime Minister for a proper and just revision of pay scales; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) and (b) Representations including those regarding pay scales of scientists and others received from time to time in the Prime Minister's Office are sent to the concerned Ministries/Departments for appropriate consideration.

**Reduction of import duty on raw material for pesticides**

2692. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some members of Parliament have written to the Minister of Finance seeking reduction of customs duty on the import of D.V. Ester, a raw material for pesticides Industry;

(b) whether the Ministry of Industry, the administrative ministry has also recommended for the same; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) On the basis of representations received and the recommendations of the Ministry of Industry, notification No. 128/87-Customs, dated 12-3-87 has been issued (amending notification No. 464/86-Customs, dated 18-11-86 so as to substitute "D.V.Ester" in place of 'D.V.O.' in the Schedule annexed to the said notification) exempting the item from the whole of additional duty of customs (countervailing duty) of 15 per cent ad valorem.

**Exemption of customs duty on raw material for pesticides**

2693. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI:
SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Notification of 18th November, 1986 provides exemption of customs duty on raw material for pesticides;

(b) whether D.V.O. is not a raw material but an intermediate; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken for inclusion of D.V. ester which is the actual raw material for cypermethrin pesticide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Notification No. 464/86-Customs, dated 18th November, 1986 exempts specified intermediates used in the manufacture of pesticides from the additional duty of customs (countervailing duty).

(b) and (c) Notification No. 128/87-Customs, dated the 12th March, 1987 has been issued (amending notification No. 464/86-Customs, dated 18-11-86 so as to substitute "D.V.Ester" in place of 'D.V.O.' in the Schedule annexed to the said notification) exempting the item from the whole of additional duty of customs (countervailing duty) of 15 per cent ad valorem.